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ABSTRACT

Since 1971 a fully equipped learning laboratory building and the open fields, woodlands, salt water marshes, and beaches of Sunken Meadow State Park have been available for year round day use by students and educators in New York's Suffolk and Nassau counties. Funded by the New York Office of Parks and Recreation and local Boards of Cooperative Educational Service, the Outdoor Education Program has been designed as a multidisciplinary approach to utilizing the outdoor environment to supplement, strengthen, and give new dimensions to the existing school curriculum. Participants have found that these environments are not only appropriate for study of the natural sciences, but that art, music, mathematics, Long Island history, and the language arts can be learned more effectively in such surroundings. The handbook contains: teacher procedures for participation in the program; hours of operation; a map and directions for reaching the laboratory; transportation and parking procedures; radio stations to monitor for possible laboratory closing during inclement weather; appropriate dress; fire regulations; safety, first aid, and emergency procedures; instructions for using the mobile radio network while in the field; security measures; conservation practices; a map of the park; and a student registration and health blank. In the original, 28 blank pages are provided for students to maintain a log of their learning experience. (NEC)

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ED186156

Handbook for Students, Teachers and Parents

A cooperative educational program sponsored by BOCES/SCOPE, the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission.

BOCES/SCOPE

Outdoor Learning Laboratory

RC011572

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At Sunken Meadow

OUTDOOR LEARNING LABORATORY

...at Sunken Meadow State Park

A BOCES/SCOPE program administered by:

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services
Third Supervisory District of Suffolk County

Dr. Gordon A. Wheaton, District Superintendent
Dr. William H. Heath, Assistant Superintendent (Planning & Program Development)
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Mr. Harthon L. Bill, General Manager, Long Island State Park & Recreation Commission

Mr. George Hull, Superintendent, Sunken Meadow State Park

BOCES/SCOPE Outdoor Learning Laboratory

The Outdoor Learning Laboratory and its Environmental Education program are dedicated to the memory of Dr. E. Lloyd Moreland, the first president of SCOPE (1964) and Superintendent of the Bay Shore Public Schools from 1954 to 1967.

A Regional Educational Program Sponsored by BOCES I, BOCES II, and BOCES III of Suffolk County.

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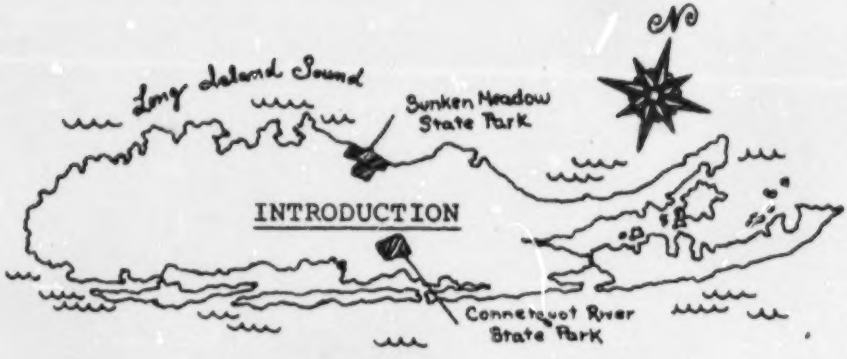


INTRODUCTION

Suffolk County is fortunate since it has one of the few programs in the State of New York where educators are working directly with both State Park officials and the U. S. Department of Interior in providing new avenues of help our children learn. The Outdoor Learning Laboratory within Sunken Meadow State Park has been operational since February 1971 with thousands of educators and students utilizing this learning environment. This facility is operational for day use throughout the entire year.

A second facility, The National Wildlife Refuge at Target Rock, has been operational since April 1972 providing overnight accommodations and a more intensive educational experience. A third facility, The Connetquot River State Park, has been operational since September 1973. In response to high levels of demand for the utilization of these laboratories additional lab facilities at other sites are now under development. All programs are administered and staffed by BOCES/SCOPE Shared Educational Service, in conjunction with the full support and cooperation of the respective state and federal administrators. Students and teachers who have participated in this new learning program are to be congratulated on how well they have responded to this outdoor program and how creatively they have used the refuge resources as an integral part of their school's

total instructional offering. Participants have found that these environments are not only appropriate for study of the natural sciences, but that art, mathematics, Long Island history, the language arts, music and other areas can be learned more effectively in these natural environments. In many ways the outdoor setting has been found to be more appropriate than learning in a classroom setting. Excitement and creativity fostered here have been reflected by our program's expansion.

All those who have helped make the present program possible are to be congratulated. They leave a significant legacy to students and teachers who will be using the Laboratory in the future and who will continue to improve and sophisticate approaches to outdoor education.

Background of

the Outdoor Learning Laboratory

at Sunken Meadow

The BOCES/SCOPE Outdoor Education Program has been designed as a multidisciplinary approach to utilizing the outdoor environment to supplement, strenghten and give new dimensions to the existing school curriculum.

In cooperation with the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission and the Office of Parks and Recreation of the State of New York, a functional learning laboratory was built on a wooded knoll in Sunken Meadow State Park. The hundreds of acres of Sunken Meadow State Park offer open fields, woodlands, salt water marshes, beaches and Long Island Sound as the outdoor learning classroom for the teachers and students participating in this program. Designed as a year-round educational center, the learning laboratory building serves as a base station for teachers and their classes during fair and inclement weather. The Director and his staff are housed in the laboratory building.

Class groups from school districts utilize the laboratory and its facilities. Teachers attend a series of intensive training and planning sessions prior to the time when their classes use the facility. Classes are scheduled for the equivalent of one school week with each class attending several days per season.

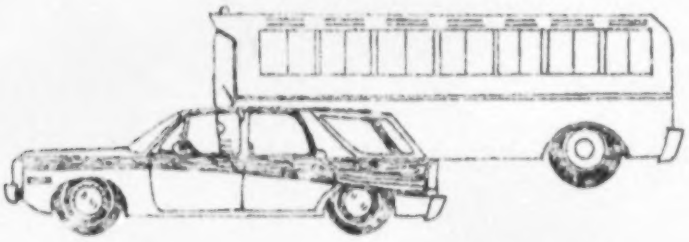
In our continued efforts to provide more exciting learning environments we now offer teachers having completed our inservice training program an opportunity to utilize our overnight Outdoor Education facilities at other locations on Long Island.

Arrangements for Participation in the Laboratory Program

All teachers wishing to participate in the program must obtain clearance from their respective building principal who will initiate a request to the Chief School Administrator of the district. Assuming that the Chief School Administrator approved the request, he should send notification to the appropriate BOCES office of the number of learning units (a learning unit consists of one teacher and his/her class) to be included for budget planning purposes. Where possible, such notification should be made by the first of February preceding the school year during which teacher/student participation will take place. Upon acceptance into the program, the teacher can schedule the dates of participation by direct communication with the Director of the Laboratory. All teacher participants are required to attend the Inservice Training program prior to bringing

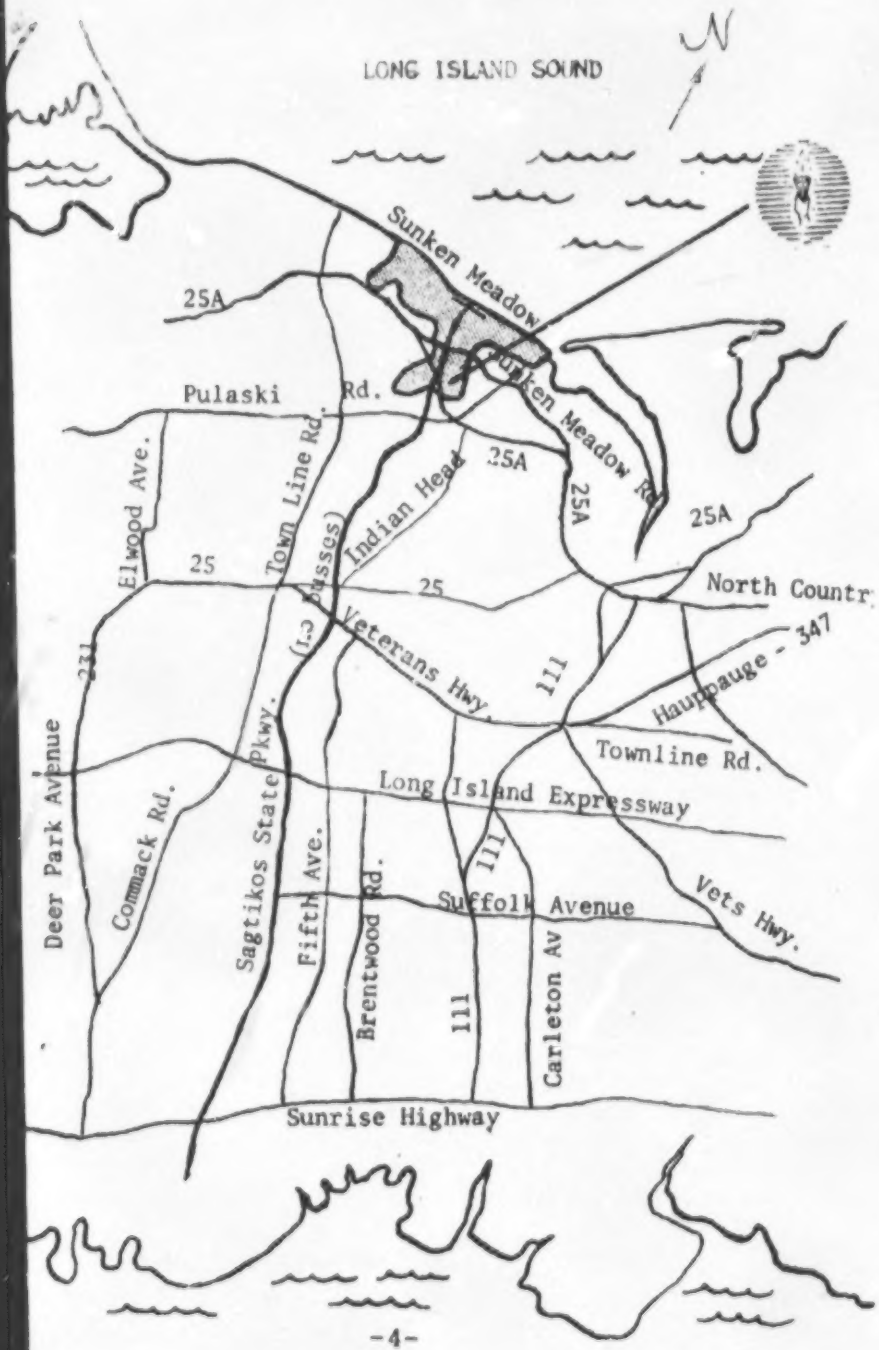
their class to the Laboratory. (There is no charge for the training program to the individual teacher.)

For further information or visitation permit, contact: Dr. William H. Heath, Assistan Superintendent--Planning and Program Development Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Third Supervisory District of Suffolk County, 507 Deer Park Road, Dix Hills, New York 11746, or call Burton S. Brody, Director of Environmental Education, Outdoor Learning Laboratory Programs Telephone (516) 269-4343.



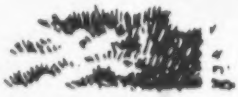
Getting to the Outdoor Learning Laboratory

Districts sending students and teachers to the Outdoor Learning Laboratory are expected to supply their own transportation to and from Sunken Meadow State Park. Arrival and departur times are, essentially up to the discretion of the teacher as the Laboratory is operational from 8:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Special arrangments to arrive can also be made with the Laboratory Director. The only restriction is that all State Parks officially close at sundow


LONG ISLAND SOUND
N
Sunken Meadow
25A
Pulaski Rd.
Sunken Meadow Rd.
Indian Head
25A
25A
25A
Elwood Ave.
Town Line Rd.
25
25
North Countr
Veterans Hwy.
111
347
Hauppauge
Townline Rd.
Long Island Expressway
Deer Park Avenue
231
Commack Rd.
Sagtikos State Pkwy.
Fifth Ave.
Brentwood Rd.
111
111
Carleton Av
Suffolk Avenue
Vets Hwy.
Sunrise Highway

Teachers and district transportation directors will do well to remember that buses are not allowed on State Parkways. The map on Page 4 may be helpful in providing directions to bus drivers if they do not have a firm idea of how to most promptly get to the Park.

Bus trips to any field location are sometimes a dull, uneducational experience. This need not be so. Because of Long Island's history, glacial origin, topography, cultural setting and industry, a number of opportunities exist to make the ride to and from the Laboratory part of the total educational experience.



Sunken Meadow State Park

Sunken Meadow State Park is one of 19 parks including almost 21,000 acres administered by the Long Island State Park Commission from its central headquarters at Belmont State Park. Other parks include: Jones Beach, Hecksher, Robert Moses, Hither Hills, Montauk, Wildwood, Orient, Belmont, Valley Stream, Hempstead, Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Captree, Connetquot and undeveloped park areas such as Wyandanch, and Caumset

Sunken Meadow is 1,266 acres which include various diverse ecological settings. The map in the centerfold of this booklet gives some insight into the nature of the Park.

Transportation

Parking

Procedures

Please park in designated areas unless you have been given specific permission to park elsewhere by authorized Park personnel. Be sure to inform all drivers, bus, parents, etc. of this regulation.

Educational Service Area

During the regular school year the laboratory program operates as a shared service educational program serving participating school districts within Suffolk and Nassau Counties. During the Summer months, programs are operated for students and teachers from all Nassau and Suffolk County school districts. (Summer programs are not state aided and participation must be arranged by April 1.)

The Laboratory Facility at Sunken Meadow and Its Resources

The building that provides an operating base for classes participating in BOCES/SCOPE's Outdoor Education program is a pre-engineered structure of about 2,000 square feet. It stands on a poured concrete foundation in a wooded portion of the park. Mounted on its flat roof are radio antenna, a wind vane and an anemometer to record local wind velocity. The site selected for the structure is one of the very highest in the park rising 250 feet above the level of Long Island Sound.

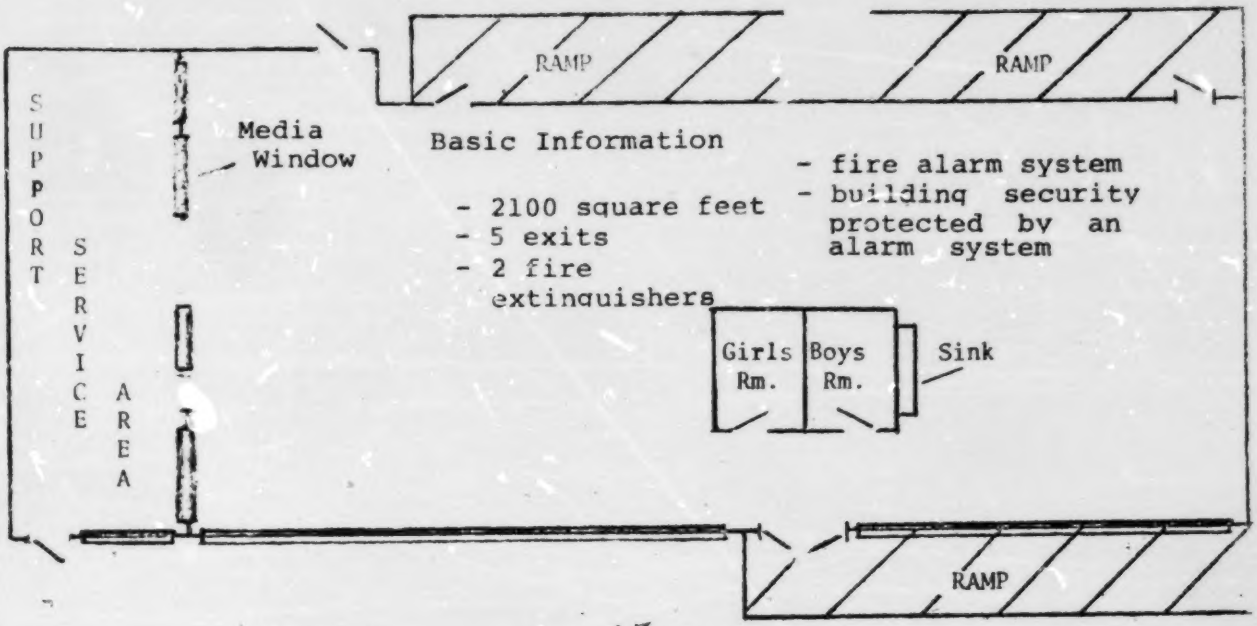
Lab and Resources

Although the interior layout is flexible specific areas have been selected for storage of equipment, materials and supplies and needed office equipment. All student furniture is functional and standard student desk and chairs have been eliminated. Furniture that is available in the structure is of a durable fiberglas construction that can be moved outside without fear of deterioration or damage. Tables are adjustable and can be used for a variety of activities.

Layout of the Building

The interior of the structure is illustrated in the floor plan on the opposite page.

LABORATORY FLOOR PLAN



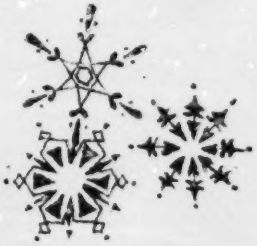
How is the Program Financially Supported?

The Outdoor Learning Laboratory program follows a unique financial plan. In cooperation with the Office of Parks and Recreation of our State, funds are provided to the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission to work with BOCES/SCOPE in providing for children's needs at the Laboratory. These funds help meet costs for construction, site preparation, landscaping, salaries, and instructional materials. In addition, each school district that participates contributes a fee to cover teacher training, additional instructional costs and follow-up consultant services. These school district contributions are eligible, through local Boards of Cooperative Educational Services, for reimbursement based on a previously determined school district shared-service ratio.

Who Can Participate in the Laboratory Program?

Besides the students and teachers directly participating in the program a number of teachers have requested that other persons come with them to the Sunken Meadow Outdoor Learning Laboratory. These have included teaching aides, high school student aides, school board members, other teachers, principals, parents and local park personnel.

There are no restrictions on who may accompany a class to the program. However, as the teacher is the person responsible for the educational experiences for his/her class, approval will be necessary from the teacher. It is recommended, although not required, that adults accompanying any group be given a responsibility in regard to the over-all learning effort.



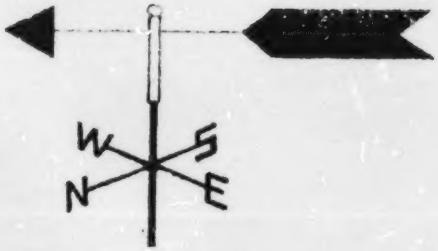
Inclement Weather! Will the Laboratory be operational?

County and Park road conditions and forecast will determine the operational status of this facility.

Should your school be open please monitor either of the following radio stations prior to 8:00 A. M. for possible closing of the laboratory:

WGSM	74.0	AM
WALK	1370	AM or 97.5 FM

In the event of either your school's or the Laboratory's closing due to inclement weather every effort will be made to provide another opportunity to utilize the facility as soon as possible.



Dress and Clothing

The importance of adequate clothing for outdoor work cannot be too heavily stressed for students and teachers making plans to participate in the Laboratory's program. Teachers should emphasize to their students that older shoes and pants or slacks are a must. Heavy sweaters and jackets when appropriate should be brought. It's easier to shed extra sweaters and leave them in the shelter of the laboratory than to be without one. Rain gear is not now available at the Park. If rain seems imminent it is suggested that students bring rubbers, rain coats and rain hats.

What to Bring to the Laboratory?

In addition to any special instructional supplies or equipment which are determined to be essential to carry out the teaching plan when classes are at the Laboratory, provisions must be made for lunch for all participants. Limited space is available for refrigerator storage and in colder weather drinks, etc. may be stored outside. During any season classes are free to use outside barbeque facilities to cook lunches. Charcoal and cooking implements, if required, should be brought into the lab environment.

Also suggested, should the teacher find it educationally sound, are cameras, compasses, small telescopes, hand lenses, small plastic collecting containers and any other item of which use can be made.

Environmental Resource Center

The environmental resource area of the facility is designed to provide a wide range of information sources.

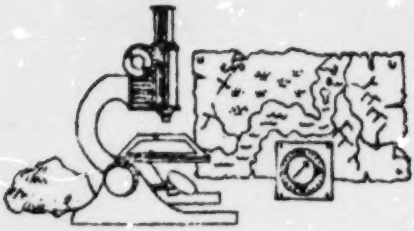
The following are examples of the materials found here:

- Current periodicals
- Motion pictures
- Filmstrips and slides
- Charts, maps, books and identification guides
- Government publications
- Instructional models
- Recordings

Material from this area is available for students and teachers both in and out of the laboratory on a rapid check-out/check-in procedure.

Instructional Supplies

Although the Laboratory facility contains consumable instructional materials for student use, teachers are asked to "back-up" these materials with supplies brought from their individual schools. This is particularly true in that teachers will have a firm idea of supply needs having completed most of the planning for their class's experiences in the laboratory.



Equipment and Materials: Care and Storage

Certain equipment in the Laboratory requires a preliminary "check-out" to insure its most effective use. This familiarization process is part of the inservice workshop program for the Lab teacher participants.

The interior of the Laboratory building is laid out so that materials, supplies and A/V equipment are readily available. Large storage cabinets are marked on the outside with their contents and a color code system is used to identify contents of the individual storage bins. With a brief orientation students should be able to obtain materials on their own for use in individual or group work. This material use carries with it a responsibility however, it is expected that all materials will be returned to the proper storage area.

Special Instructional and Audio-Visual Equipment

Currently the Laboratory has on hand special instructional and audio-visual equipment which is accessible to teachers and students. This equipment includes:

16 mm sound projector
Specialized craft equipment
Photocopying equipment
Rear Projection screen
Weather Instruments
Overhead projector
Film strip projector
Student microscopes
Portable easels
Collecting bags
Rolling measures
Rock tumblers
Casting equipment
Coring equipment
Visual makers
Tape recorders
Record player
Micro projectors
Laminating Press
Hand lenses
Globes
Maps
Sieves
Telescopes
Compasses
Pack bags
Sun dials
Scales
Presses
Nets
Timers

Taking Equipment Outside

Teachers and students are encouraged to take instructional equipment outside. Not all is durable but outdoor use is completely in keeping with the philosophy of the Laboratory. Better to wear the equipment out by continued instructional use than to have it in perfect shape on a stock room shelf. A system to account for the whereabouts of specific pieces of equipment will be operating in the Laboratory.

Fire Regulations

The facility is constructed according to the approved code for school structures in New York State. It is fire resistant but fire is a danger in <u>any</u> structure! The main entrance/exit is on the west side of the structure and four additional exits are on the east and west sides. Standard fire extinguishers are available. However, in the event of a fire teachers are to have students exit from the structure at once. Leave fire fighting to skilled professionals. Exits are indicated on the building layout plan included in this guide.

Safety, First Aid and Emergencies

As in any field experience the teacher is legally responsible for the supervision and safety of each student within his charge. The Outdoors hold some hazards which we forget exist when we become accustomed to an indoor learning environment. The Director of the Laboratory in his inservice program for participating teachers will provide reminders, however, with even the best advance preparation, cuts, bruises, scratches, insect bites and stings will occur.

To provide for minor emergencies first aid kits are available at the Laboratory. Should any major problem develop the teacher is to inform either the Park headquarters or the Learning Laboratory for action. Please refer to Appendices for Laboratory radio network emergency procedure. Depending on the nature of the emergency immediate provision by park officials or the Learning Lab will be made to serve the situation.

Even though the park contains beautiful beaches and the Lab will be operational during warm weather months no swimming is allowed as part of the educational offering.

If children shed their shoes and socks for biological collecting in the intertidal zone the teachers must maintain very close supervision.

In addition to the insurance which individual school districts have on their students, the Laboratory is covered by liability insurance when students are within the facility under teacher supervision.

Laboratory Radio Network

As an aid to safety and communication, each participating teacher is furnished with a Mobile Transceiver.

1) Operational Instructions:

   To maintain optimal efficiency, please closely follow posted check-out and check-in procedures before leaving the laboratory facility with transceiver.

2) The following are approved uses of transceiver:*

   a) Obtaining emergency assistance

   b) Reporting group location at required time intervals

   c) Coordinating activities with other teachers in the field

   d) Requesting assistance from the Laboratory staff

For other expected uses please get clearance from Director.

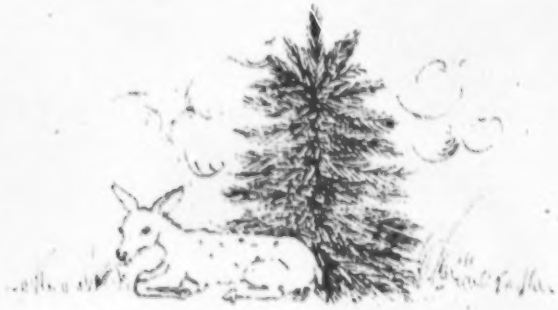
* - Please note:

Students are not to carry or operate transceiver.

Protect transceiver from sand, soil, and water.

Security

The Laboratory facility is protected from vandalism and theft by an electronic detection system. Should your class wish to leave materials overnight they should be safe until you return to the program site. However, BOCES/ SCOPE cannot be held responsible for materials or equipment left overnight.



Conservation Practices

Although a good portion of the State Park is available to aid the teacher in his instructional program it must be remembered that continued use of any area by a group can result in exploitation and damage to the area. This damage could be to plant and animal life or to physical features of the park. The removal of ground cover, the compaction of soil, the

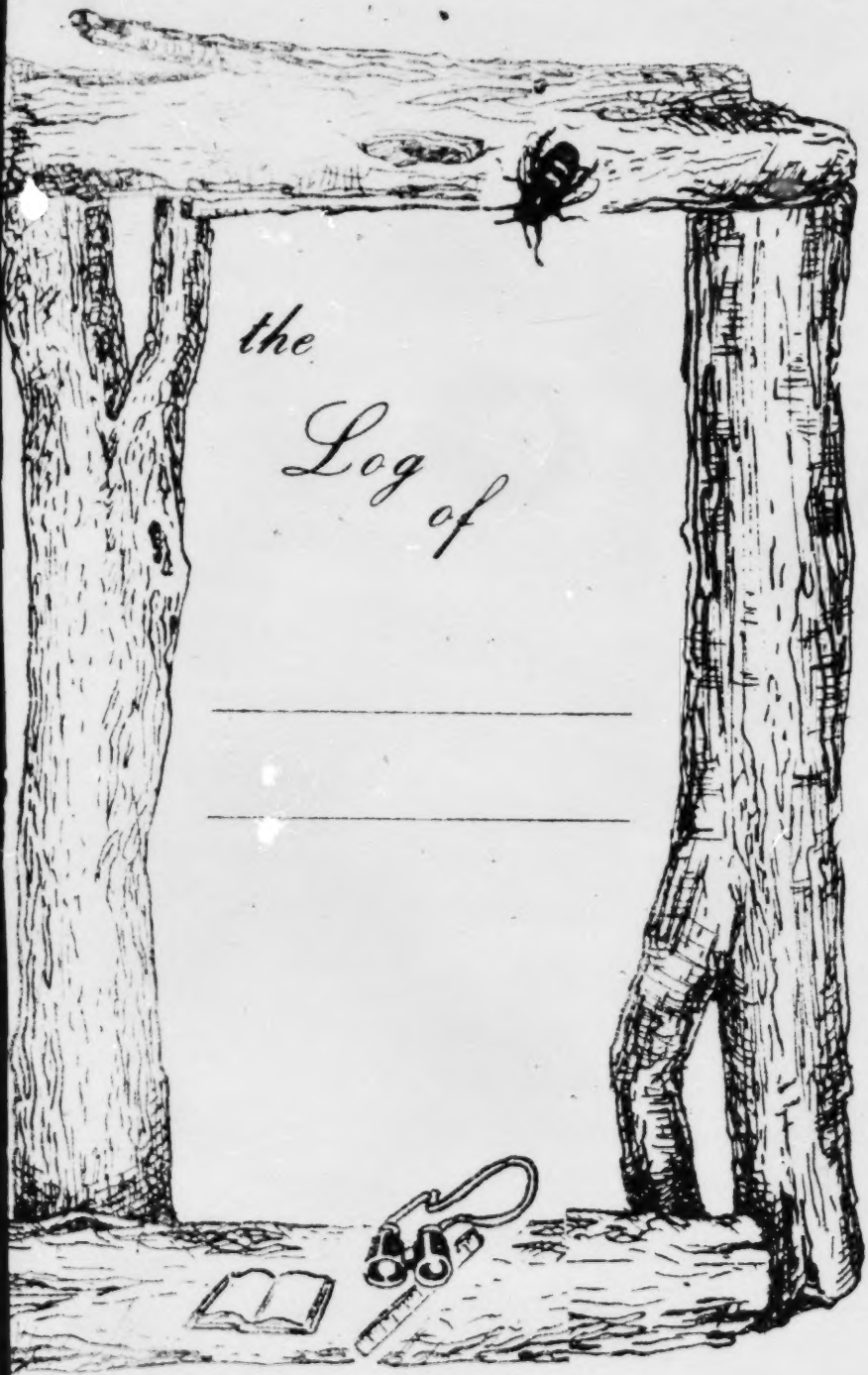
erosion of areas due to heavy foot traffic, the continual snapping off of twig and bush specimens and over collecting of any specific plant or animal species are just some examples of damage to the Park setting that is difficult, if not impossible to repair. In order for the park to remain as almost perfect instructional setting, teachers can assist by making their students more aware of the proper treatment of the park setting. The following suggestions may be of help.

1. Acquaint your students with the state park setting, problems that could be posed and discuss with them ways to avoid abuses of the environment.

2. Encourage students to "stick to paths" and established walk-ways of the park.

3. Help establish a tradition whereby each class does at least one thing which contributes to be permanent betterment of the environment during their time at the Lab.

4. Prevent chopping, cutting and mutilation of trees and shrubs and avoid over-collecting or exploitation of animal species. Never bring animals back to the Laboratory if they will die enroute or when they get there. This is a poor example for others.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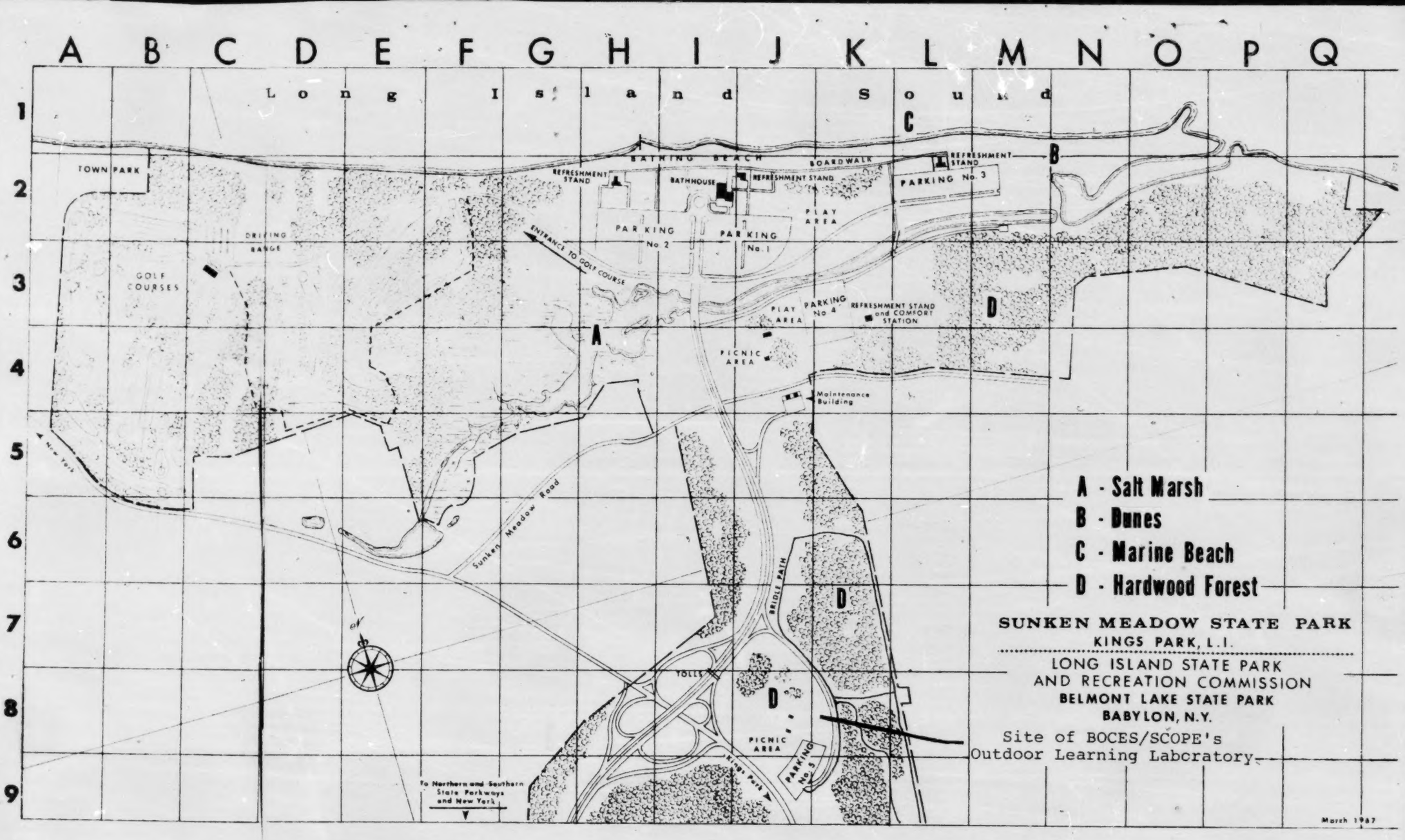

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Long Island Sound
TOWN PARK
GOLF COURSES
DRIVING RANGE
REFRESHMENT STAND
BATHING BEACH
BATHHOUSE
REFRESHMENT STAND
BOARDWALK
REFRESHMENT STAND
PARKING No. 3
PARKING No. 2
PARKING No. 1
PLAY AREA
ENTRANCE TO GOLF COURSE
PLAY AREA
PARKING No. 4
REFRESHMENT STAND and COMFORT STATION
PICNIC AREA
Maintenance Building
Sunken Meadow Road
BRIDLE PATH
TOLLS
PICNIC AREA
PARKING No. 5
Kings Park
To Northern and Southern State Parkways and New York
A
B
C
D
D
D
A - Salt Marsh
B - Dunes
C - Marine Beach
D - Hardwood Forest
SUNKEN MEADOW STATE PARK
KINGS PARK, L.I.
LONG ISLAND STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
BELMONT LAKE STATE PARK
BABYLON, N.Y.
Site of BOCES/SCOPE's Outdoor Learning Labcratory
March 1967

APPENDIX T

REGISTRATION AND HEALTH BLANK
(To be filled out and signed by Parent or Guardi

Name of Student _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Name of School _____ Teacher _____

Mother's (first) name _____ Father's _____

In case of emergency, I may be reached at _____
Whose telephone number is _____

Our family physician is _____

1. Underline diseases (he-she) has had - MEASLES MUMPS, WHOOPING COUGH, CHICKENPOX, SCARLET FEVER, RHEUMATIC FEVER, MENINGITIS, INFANTILE PARALYSIS, BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, TONSILITIS.

2. Has (he-she) any physical disability? If so, what? _____

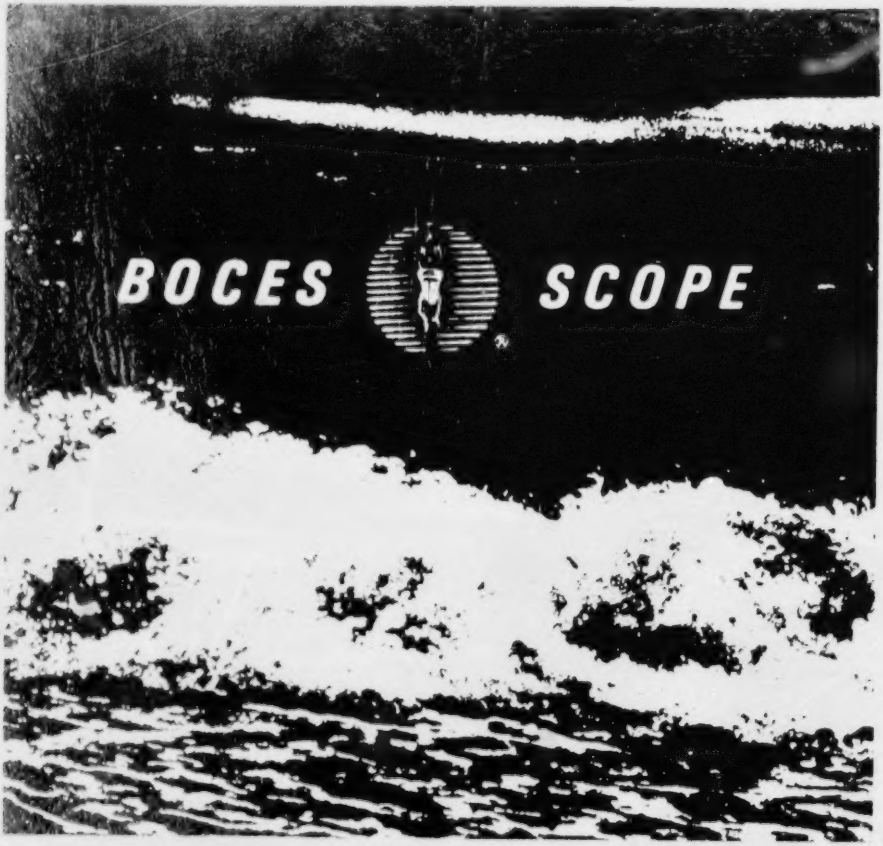
3. Does (he-she) have any allergies? If so, what? _____

4. Does (he-she) take any medicine? If so, what? _____

5. Please list any recommendations or suggestions which you think might help this pupil while attending the Outdoor Learning Laboratory.

Date _____

Signature of Parent _____



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